

## Message Text

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43

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /016 W  
----- 094269

P R 081549Z JAN 75  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6010  
INFO USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OEXC UR  
SUBJECT: EXCHANGES: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS: DRAMA GROUP FOR 1975

STATE FOR CU/ARTS

REF: STATE 274191

1. UNOFFICIAL VIEW OF SOVIET CONTACTS IN DRAMA WORLD STRONGLY FAVORS INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE CONTEMPORARY PLAY AMONG THOSE TO BE PRESENTED BY ACT. DIFFICULT TO PROPOSE TITLES FROM HERE, BUT SUGGEST DEPT. CONSULT HOWARD STEIN, ASSOC. DEAN YALE DRAMA SCHOOL, WHO WAS STAG HERE LAST YEAR AND WHO WILL BE LECTURING HERE IN MARCH ON CONTEMPORARY TRENDS IN AMERICAN DRAMA AS APRT OF EMBASSY EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES BETWEEN THE TWO THEATER PAG'S; ZELDA FICHANDLER AND ALAN SCHNEIDER, BOTH FAMILIAR WITH SOVIET DRAMA SCENE AND INTERESTS IN U.S. PLAYS; AND NORRIS HOUGHTON, WRITER ON SOVIET THEATER AND MEMBER INTERNATIONAL THEATER INSTITUTE DELEGATION HERE.

AMONG TITLES REFTTEL, SUGGEST DELICATE BALANCE, PICNIC, PLAZA SUITE HAVE MORE POTENTIAL FOR PRESENTATION HERE THAN OTHERS. AMONG OUR DRAMA ACTIVITIES BETWEEN ARENA STAGE AND 1975 PAG WERE SHOWINGS OF ORIGINAL FILMS OF "AH WILDERNESS" AND "LONG DAY'S JOURNEY" AS WELL AS AFT PRODUCTION OF "ICEMAN COMETH." RESULTS SUGGEST THESE PLAYS WOULD APPEAL ONLY TO RELATIVELY NARROW SEGMENT OF POTENTIAL SOVIET AUDIENCE AND SHOULD THUS BE ELIMINATED FROM CONSIDERATION FOR PAG. SAROYAN'S "TIME OF YOUR LIFE" MIGHT BE CONSIDERED AMONG OLDER TITLES, BUT  
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RECOMMEND EXPLORATION EMPHASIZE CONTEMPORARY TO EXTENT POSSIBLE.

STOESSEL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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